

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 March 2001 (15.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/18352 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **E21B 41/00,**
21/01, 21/00

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/GB00/03396**

(22) International Filing Date:
4 September 2000 (04.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
9920819.1 4 September 1999 (04.09.1999) GB

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **MARTIN, Andrew** (GB/GB); The Stables,
Wood of Arbeadie, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 4EP
(GB).

(74) Agents: **MCCALLUM, William, Potter et al.**; Cruik-
shank & Fairweather, 19 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow
G1 3AE (GB).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

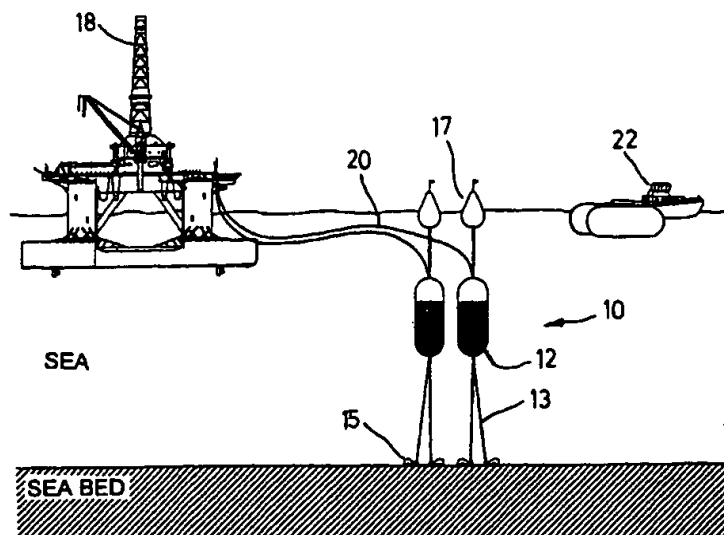
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **DRILLING WASTE HANDLING**



(57) Abstract: A method and an apparatus for storage and transport of drilling waste is provided. A number of storage containers (12) are anchored to the sea bed by means of anchors (15) and cables (13). The location of the containers (12) is marked with buoys (17). The containers (12) are of adjustable buoyancy, and are arranged to remain below the surface of the sea. Drilling waste is macerated on board a drilling vessel (18), and pumped via conduits (20) into the containers (12). Once the containers (12) are full, a tug (22) collects the containers (12) and transports them to an onshore waste recycling facility, while empty tanks are returned to the drilling vessel (18) to be reused. The containers (12) may be arranged to agitate stored waste, either by means of an internal agitator, or by virtue of fins or paddles mounted on the containers (12), to rotate the containers in response to sea currents.

WO 01/18352 A1